

CLAIMS:-

1. Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, said canister having a shut-off valve which closes the outlet from the canister when it is full, a tube for connecting the canister to a wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle, and a pressure detecting means connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister for indicating when the pressure in the suction tube falls below a predetermined level.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a flow limiting valve disposed between the canister and the suction source.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2 which includes a pressure relief valve which is connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister.

4. A modification of the apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which includes a first transducer for measuring pressure in a tube linking the canister to the wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle, and a second transducer for measuring pressure at the wound site.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which includes flow rate measuring means for measuring the rate at which fluid is sucked from the wound site.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 in which the flow rate measuring means comprises a device for measuring the rate at which the canister is filled.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 in which the flow rate measuring means is an electrical capacitance measuring device.

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8. Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open-celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, a tube for connecting the canister to a wall suction point or a vacuum bottle and means for sensing when the canister is full.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8 which includes means for giving a warning that the canister is full and/or shutting off the connection between the canister and the wall suction point.

10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9 which further includes means for monitoring pressure at the wound site.

11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 10 which further includes means for regulating pressure between the canister and the suction source.

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